



WESTHOUGHTON

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector.



Year ending December 31st, 1917.



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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Westhoughton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of the Urban District of Westhoughton for the year 1917.

The area of the district is 5,554 acres, containing 19 miles of highway. The geological formation is boulder clay over coal measures.

The estimated population is 15,400, equal to a density of 2.7 per acre.

Year	Number of Houses	Population	Av'ge per House	Av'ge per Acre
1915	3267	15333	4.7	2.7
1916	3267	15400	4.7	2.7
1917	3311	15400	4.6	2.7

Summary of Statistics.

Year		Birth-Rate	Death-Rate	Zymotic Death-R'te	Phthisis Death-Rate	Respiratory Death-Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 births
1917	...	18.8	10.1	.18	.32	2.9	103
1916	...	22.3	12.5	.27	.51	2.8	107
C'ty Urban		18.5	14.4	.92	1.06	2.6	101

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 290, of these 160 were males and 130 females. This is equal to a birth-rate of 18.8 compared with 22.3 last year. The County Urban birth-rate was 18.54, and that for England and Wales 21.6. There were 16 illegitimate births.

Year	Total Births	Males	Females	Birth-R'te	County Urban Bir'h-R'te	England and Wales
1913	427	207	220	28.08	22.41	23.9
1914	414	219	195	26.8	22.19	23.8
1915	386	194	192	25.1	19.91	21.8
1916	344	187	157	22.3	18.54	21.6
1917	290	160	130	18.8	...	

Deaths

During the year there were registered 156 deaths, equal to a death-rate of 10.1, as against a rate of 12.5 last year. The County Urban death-rate was 14.4.

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Tot.D'ths	D'th R'te	Zymotic Death- Rate	County Urban D'th Rate	England and Wales
1913	73	223	14.6	1.1	14.39	13.4
1914	47	222	14.4	.77	14.17	13.7
1915	58	225	14.6	.32	15.60	14.8
1916	37	194	12.5	.27	14.47	14.0
1917	30	156	10.1	.18	...	...

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths which occurred during the first year of life during 1917 was 30, as compared with 37 last year,

The rate per 1,000 births for 1917 is 103, as against 107 in 1913, and 120 the mean of 10 years 1907 to 1916.

17 of the deaths occurred during the first 4 weeks of life.

Of the 30 deaths 9 were notified as due to premature birth or congenital causes. Of the 9 deaths 6 occurred during the first week of life.

Infantile Welfare.

As will be seen from accompanying summary, progress has been made with this important work. Valuable service has been rendered by the Health Visitor in the homes of infants, and as previously pointed out, I think this is the most important side of welfare work.

The scattered nature of the district handicaps our efforts to make the weekly Centre completely successful from the attendance point of view. The fact that husbands are engaged in the mining industry and arrive home for dinner during mid-afternoon, is also the cause of inability of many mothers to attend at the appointed time.

We have tried to meet the difficulty by arranging for the attendance of the Health Visitor at the Centre Rooms each morning from nine o'clock to ten o'clock for consultations and the weighing of babies.

We are indebted to the voluntary helpers and hope for increasing interest to be shewn by the ladies of the district.

The details below summarise the work carried out during the year :—

(a) Total births registered	...	290
(b) Total births notified	...	301
(c) Birth enquiries...	...	295
(d) Revisits to births	...	2871
(e) Visits to ophthalmia cases	...	71
(f) Breast-fed babies	...	295
(g) Bottle-fed babies	...	58
(h) Babies still-born	...	21
(i) Total deaths under one year		30

RATE OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR PER 1,000 BIRTHS :—

Year	W'hton	County Urban	Eng. and Wales
1913	170	128	109
1914	113	115	105
1915	150	123	110
1916	107	101	91
1917	103	...	...
Av'ge 10 yrs. (1907-16)	120	126	113.6

Zymotic Disease.

There were notified 236 cases of infectious disease compared with 243 the previous year, and a five years' average of 173.8

1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	Average
236	243	138	108	144	173.8

81 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

There were notified 93 cases of this disease. 75 cases were removed to the hospital. There were 4 deaths from this disease during the year.

Measles.

There were notified 120 cases of this disease during the year.

Diphtheria.

8 cases were notified during the year, one of which was removed to the hospital. There were no deaths.

Enteric Fever.

There were notified 5 cases, and one case was withdrawn, making 4 cases for the year. They were all removed to the hospital. There were no deaths from this disease.

Diarrhœa.

During the year 2 deaths were registered as due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Year	Westhoughton Diarrhœa Death Rate	County Urban Diarrhœa Death Rate	England & Wales Diarrhœa Death Rate
1913	1.4	.91	.55
1914	.25	.51	.48
1915	.91	.56	.39
1916	.25	.27	.27
1917	.13	...	...

As in previous years, specimens have been referred to Prof. Delepine, of Manchester University, for pathological examination.

Respiratory Disease.

46 deaths were due to Respiratory diseases as against 44 last year. The death-rate from these diseases is 2.9. 23 deaths were caused by Puenmonia, Bronchitis accounting for 23.

Phthisis.

During the year there were notified 7 cases of this disease as against 11 last year.

The Local Care Committee for Consumptives continues its most excellent work.

There have been 9 deaths from this disease during the year. The affected houses have been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and all precautions taken to prevent the spread of this disease.

There were notified 8 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and one death was due to this cause.

Year	West'hton Respiratory Death-rate	C'tyUrban Respiratory Death-rate	West'hton Phthisis Death-rate	C'tyUrban Phthisis Death-rate
1913	3.3	2.51	.46	.84
1914	3.4	2.59	.52	.89
1915	3.7	3.13	.91	1.01
1916	2.8	2.6	.51	1.06
1917	2.9	...	.32	...

Water Supply.

The district is still supplied with mainland upland water by the Bolton Corporation.

The total number of houses supplied with water is 3,082, the Bolton Corporation supplying the remainder in the Hulton Ward District.

The total consumption for the year was 87,620,000 galls.

Milk Supply.

The dairies and cowsheds in the district continue to be in a satisfactory condition, also the bake-houses and slaughter-houses. These are regularly inspected.

The Schools.

The Schools continue in a satisfactory condition and are regularly inspected. All are provided with water closets with the exception of Hulton School, which is provided with pails.

Drainage and Sewerage.

These systems have again worked well during the year.

Closet Conversion.

This most pressing sanitary improvement is in abeyance owing to the war.

Housing Accommodation.

The 44 houses mentioned in last year's Report are all practically completed. There is a shortage of houses in the district, there being no empty houses.

Excellent work has again been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, whose Report is appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

William H. Leigh.

July, 1918.

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Westhoughton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Return of the various sanitary duties performed and improvements carried out during the year 1917, and also furnish the following Statement in accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order of December, 1910:—

(a) The number and nature of the inspections made during the year :—

Visits made to houses where infectious cases have occurred	...	...	...	...	368
Visits made to the opening up of blocked drains, the repairing and relaying of same, including visits to blocked water closets...	...	...	...	...	143
Visits to re-laying of drains condemned and supervising connections, and laying of new drains for water closets ...	...	...	...	...	65
Visits to bake-houses under the Factory Act	...	...	...	...	72
Visits to farms under the Dairies & Cowsheds Order	...	...	...	...	106
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	61
Number of milk samples taken	...	...	...	...	33
Number of smoke observations	...	...	...	...	15

(b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing Statutory from Informal Notices :—

Statutory Notices served under the Public Health			
Acts under the Nuisance Sections	...	...	24
Letters and Preliminary Notices	...	...	43
Notices served by registered post	...	...	24

(c) The result of the service of such notice :—

All the Statutory Notices served have been complied with.

33 samples of milk have been taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst; 31 of the samples were certified as genuine, and 2 were below the standard and also contained added water. Legal proceedings were taken in each case. One farmer was fined £10 and costs, and the other £4 and costs.

Smoke observations have again been taken during the year, and a notice to abate was served in one instance, and the firm are taking steps to abate the nuisance, and are installing new and improved furnaces to their boilers.

The removal of house refuse has been further improved during the year. With the exception of three small districts all the work is undertaken by the Council.

A motor tipping wagon was purchased in April for this purpose owing to the difficulty of obtaining efficient carters, and has proved superior to carts and horses, especially in long journeys. This has necessitated the re-organising of the whole of the work in connection with this department, and has taken up a considerable amount of time and labour of which it is impossible to keep an account or tabulate.

The usual inspection of bake-houses, slaughter-houses, workshops, and dairies and cowsheds has been carried out during the year.

The houses from which consumptive patients have been removed, or in which they have died, have been thoroughly disinfected, as well as the houses in which other infectious cases have occurred.

I am indebted to the Council for their support in carrying out the foregoing improvements, and can assure them of my best endeavours in promoting the health of the district, and in fulfilling the many duties which all public health work demands.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. J. A. Green,

A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

February, 1917.

